

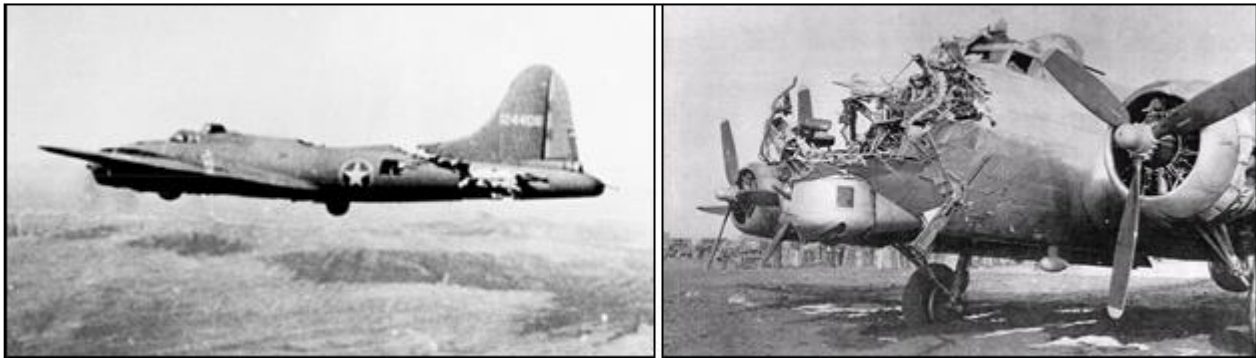


**U.S. AIR FORCE**

## **This Week in USAF and PACAF History** **2 - 8 December 2013**



2 Dec 1936 **The Boeing YB-17 made its maiden flight.** Even after awarding a contract to the far less expensive B-18 Bolo, the Air Corps was so impressed with Boeing's bomber design that they used a legal loophole to order 13 YB-17s as test aircraft. The B-17 "Flying Fortress" went on to enter full-scale production as the first truly mass-produced large aircraft. It was used primarily in the strategic bombing campaign against Germany and it also conducted raids on Japanese shipping in the Pacific. The B-17's legendary ability to survive extensive battle damage, belly landings and ditchings made it the favorite bomber among World War II aircrews. The B-17 dropped more bombs than any other U.S. aircraft in the war.



7 Dec 1941 **Japanese carrier-based aircraft attacked U.S. military airfields on Oahu** along with the primary Japanese target—the **Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor**. The bombing and strafing of Hickam, Wheeler, and other airfields crippled U.S. air defenses and prevented U.S. bombers from striking the Japanese aircraft carriers. The Army Air Forces on Oahu suffered 690 casualties, including 238 killed. Out of 234 AAF aircraft, 76 were completely destroyed and only 83 were still in commission after the attack.



The attack brought the United States of America into World War II against Japan and its allies, Germany and Italy. These photographs show the Wheeler and Hickam flightlines burning (above) and a pile of aircraft wreckage collected at Wheeler after the attack (right).



OPR: PACAF/HO

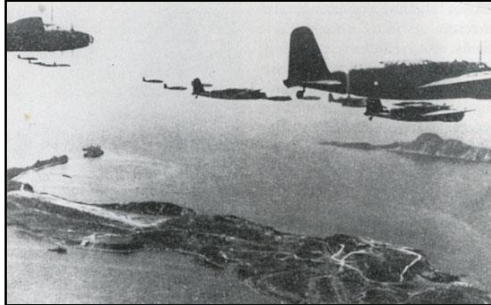


U.S. AIR FORCE

## This Week in USAF and PACAF History 2 - 8 December 2013



8 Dec 1941 Within hours of the attack on Hawaii, **Japan attacked U.S. forces in the**



**Philippines.** Japanese warplanes destroyed more than 100 U.S. Army aircraft at Clark and Iba Airfields, including 17 B-17s and 55 P-40s, mostly on the ground. The attack killed some 80 airmen, wounded about 150, and decimated the striking power of the U.S. Army Air Forces in the Philippines. Five U.S. pilots shot down seven of the attacking airplanes. At left, Japanese bombers over Corregidor in the Philippines.

3 Dec 1945 The 412th Fighter Group at March Field, California received its first P-80s and became the **first Army Air Forces fighter unit equipped with jet-propelled aircraft.**

5 Dec 1949 The USAF diverted \$50 million from other projects to build a **radar network in Alaska and certain US areas.** A successful Soviet atomic bomb test in August, 1949 had come several years earlier than expected and alarmed U.S. defense experts.



B-45 Tornado

4 Dec 1950 **MiG-15s shot down a USAF B-45 Tornado** reconnaissance aircraft in Korea, marking the **first successful jet bomber interception** in airpower history. Two days later, the 27th Fighter Escort Wing began flying combat operations from Taegu, bringing F-84 Thunderjets to the war.



F-84 Thunderjet

7 Dec 1956 **The DoD placed all air transport under a single service manager** and named the Military Air Transport Service (MATS) as its operating agency. Most Naval transport aircraft were transferred to the Air Force. MATS became Military Airlift Command on 1 Jan 1966. Most airlift and air refueling assets were united under Air Mobility Command on 1 Jun 1992.



8 Dec 1958 **Tilt-Wing Aircraft.** Hiller Aircraft Corp. unveiled its X-18 Propelloplane (left) at Moffett Field, California. The X-18 was a 16-ton tilt-wing aircraft capable of conventional and vertical takeoffs and landings. The X-18 eventually flew 20 test flights out of Edwards AFB, California from 1959 to 1961. The X-18 had several problems, including susceptibility to wind gusts when the wing was rotating. Also, the turboprop engines were not cross-linked, so the failure of one engine meant a crash. On the last flight, the aircraft had to be recovered from a spin. Ground testing of the tilting concepts continued until the plane was severely damaged when a test stand failed. The X-18 program was cancelled in January, 1964 and the X-18 was cut up for scrap.



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

## **This Week in USAF and PACAF History** **2 – 8 December 2013**



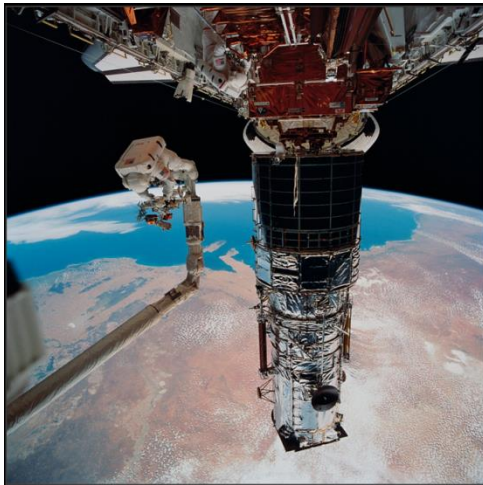
7 Dec 1960 The first ten of 29 **F-102 “Delta Dagger”** aircraft joined the **Hawaii Air National Guard**, replacing their F-86s.

2 Dec 1966 **"Black Friday" of the Vietnam War.** Enemy SAMs and anti-aircraft fire downed five Air Force and three Navy aircraft: three F-4Cs, one RF-4C, an F-105, a Navy F-4B and two A-4C Skyhawks. Losses such as these led DoD officials to accelerate acquisition programs and tactics developments aimed at suppressing enemy air defense systems.

8-9 Dec 1978 **Iran Air Evacuation.** As a result of tension in Iran, Military Airlift Command airlifted some 900 evacuees from Tehran to the U.S. and Germany. The airlift included 11 C-141 and C-5 missions. About 5,700 U.S. and third-country nationals left Iran on regularly scheduled MAC flights until Iran's revolutionary government closed the airport in February 1979.

2 Dec 1991 **Thirteenth Air Force established headquarters at Andersen AFB, Guam** after officially departing Clark AB, Philippines in November.

2-13 Dec 1993 In **one of the most challenging space missions ever**, astronauts on space shuttle mission STS-61 repaired the Hubble Space Telescope (below, left). Air Force Colonel Richard O. Covey (center), pilot and mission commander, piloted the fifth flight of the shuttle *Endeavor*, which set a record of five spacewalks. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Tom Akers (below, right) became the U.S. record holder for spacewalks with 29 hours and 40 minutes.



5 Dec 1994 **The START I Treaty went into force.** The breakup of the Soviet Union had delayed START's entry into force for nearly three-and-a-half years until Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, which had inherited strategic nuclear weapons from the Soviet Union, ratified START and joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear states.





**U.S. AIR FORCE**

## **This Week in USAF and PACAF History** **2 – 8 December 2013**



6 Dec 1995 USAF airlifters started moving troops and equipment to Bosnia-Herzegovina as a part of **Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR**. This NATO operation implemented the Dayton Peace Accord between Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia reached at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. At right, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle is backed into a C-17 at Rhein Main Air Base, Germany, on 4 Jan 1996 for transport to Bosnia.

